Denis Dyomkin

Ex-Reuters Senior Correspondent | Eurasia & Beyond | Eyewitness Archive

Excellent writing, but deeply traumatic to read. It was my journey from foreign correspondent to immigrant worker, too. I found my footing eventually, but the scar tissue remains.

I consider myself luckier than the hard labourers Steve writes about, but I had a similar experience as an emigrant from both Russia and Reuters, finding myself transferring medical patients between hospitals and senior homes across eastern Ontario for several months in the midst of the pandemic. (One of them was a former school bus driver who told me she had driven young Justin Trudeau to school.) It was before COVID vaccines were available, so I was scared of catching the virus and spreading it to my family. I got my shot among the first, taking advantage of being classified as a frontline healthcare worker.

I had just graduated from CarletonU, where my cohort was mainly kids younger than my older daughter. It was my first non-journalism and non-office job experience in my 50+ years.

I was glad I could hide my face under a surgical mask, because I felt ashamed working odd jobs with my supposedly impressive background while going through job interviews - again, for the first time in my life (I wasn't quite ready for that, having only been gradually promoted since the early 1990s in my industry).

I just wanted to say that I can relate to what Steven and other fellow ex-journalists, including those in exile, are going through now. And that it's not our fault that our countries of origin, the way we knew them, and the profession we built our lives in, disappeared right before our eyes.

Steven Scherer

Former Chief Correspondent/Bureau Chief @ Reuters | Editorial, Writing, Research

This is my story. It has been awkward, to say the least, to return to the United States in this particular moment after 28 years. I'm not looking for charity. I am, however, looking for a job, and telling stories is one of the things I know how to do best. Perhaps I'm giving voice to a group of people who is not often heard -- those of us navigating our immigration status and a downward economic drift. I hope so. We contain multitudes.

My journey from foreign correspondent to Uber driver in Trump's America
stevescherer.substack.com
https://stevescherer.substack.com/p/my-journey-from-foreign-correspondent

14

Demyan Plakhov and 13 others

8 comments

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Demyan Plakhov • 1st

Diplomat at Global Affairs Canada | Fellow at the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network | President and Founder of The Plakhov Group

5d

Denis Dyomkin thank you for sharing this. I'm sure there will be others who can relate to your message that perhaps feel shame as well.

You have done so well throughout your career, and always managed to do good for your local and global community. I think that is the important lesson we can learn from you, is that no matter where might end up, we always have the choice to do good and to be helpful to others.

I can empathize with your feelings, as I've heard of similar stories from other immigrants and refugees, who had successful careers and multiple degrees at home. Therefore, I understand how privileged I am to start my life in Canada.

I hope you know that people like you, who travelled the oceans with their family and start from scratch, are the people I look up to for inspiration.

Love

2

Reply1 reply

1 Comment on Demyan Plakhov's comment

Denis Dyomkin Author

Ex-Reuters Senior Correspondent | Eurasia & Beyond | Eyewitness Archive

4d

Demyan Plakhov Thank you, Demyan, for your words of wisdom, empathy and your support throughout

Like

1

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Lynnley Browning • 1st

Managing Editor, PYMNTS Intelligence. Versatile editor, writer, and content strategist. Known for data-driven content and storytelling that makes the complex simple and resonant. Invited HBR Advisory Council member.

5d

Denis Dyomkin Steven Scherer You guys are tough as nails.

Love

2

Reply

Brigette Walenius • 1st

Diplomat abroad; public servant at home

2d

Denis - thank you for sharing. So glad we crossed paths in Ottawa in 2018-19. So glad to see you now at GAC.

Love

1

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1 Comment on Brigette Walenius' comment

Denis Dyomkin Author

Ex-Reuters Senior Correspondent | Eurasia & Beyond | Eyewitness Archive

1d

Thank you, Brigette. So glad we did.

Like

Reply

Steven Scherer • 1st

Former Chief Correspondent/Bureau Chief @ Reuters | Editorial, Writing, Research

5d

Well said Denis. And you're right, I think there are many like us ashamed of where we ended up, even it's because the rug was pulled out from under us.

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1

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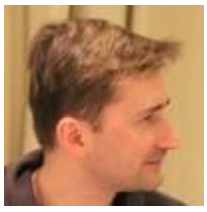

Roman Kozhevnikov • 1st

Aircraft Mechanic Supervisor at Republic Airways

4d

Thank you, Denis, for sharing Steven's story, that is also very similar to my first years in the United States: Uber/Lyft, grocery store cashier and stocker, never ending interviews where nobody cares about your experience, going to university with kids who just graduated high schools - this is my way too. Working three jobs simultaneously, having 3-4 hours of sleep, yes, I had it all. Still never regretted coming to the United States. Still worth it

…more

Support

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1 Comment on Roman Kozhevnikov's comment

Denis Dyomkin Author

Ex-Reuters Senior Correspondent | Eurasia & Beyond | Eyewitness Archive

Roman Kozhevnikov да, Рома, спасибо за твой рассказ тоже. Can relate deeply

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1

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